



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Business-Cooperative Service

[Docket No. RBS-22-CO-OP-0010]

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Agriculture Innovation Center

Demonstration Program; OMB Control No.: 0570-0045

AGENCY: Rural Business-Cooperative Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS) announces its intention to request an extension of a currently approved information collection and invites comments on this information collection.

DATES: Comments on this notice must be received by [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER] to be assured of consideration.

ADDRESSES: Comments may be submitted by the Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to <http://www.regulations.gov> and, in the lower “Search Regulations and Federal Actions” box, select “RBCS” from the agency drop-down menu, then click on “Submit.” In the Docket ID column, select “RBS-22-CO-OP-0010” to submit or view public comments and to view supporting and related materials available electronically. Information on using Regulations.gov, including instructions for accessing documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket after the close of the comment period, is available through the site’s “User Tips” link.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: MaryPat Daskal, Chief, Branch 1, Rural Development Innovation Center – Regulations Management Division, United States Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, South Building, Washington, DC 20250-1522.

Telephone: (202) 720-7853. Email MaryPat.Daskla@usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) regulation (5 CFR part 1320) implementing provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (Pub. L. 104-13) requires that interested members of the public and affected agencies have an opportunity to comment on information collection and recordkeeping activities (see 5 CFR 1320.8(d)). This notice identifies the following information collection that Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS) is submitting to OMB as extension to an existing collection with Agency adjustment.

Title: 7 CFR Part 4284, Subpart K, Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration Program.

OMB Control Number: 0570-0045.

Expiration Date of Approval: November 30, 2022.

Type of Request: Revision of a currently approved information collection.

Estimate of Burden: Public reporting for this collection of information is estimated to average 18 hours per response.

Respondents: Small business or organizations.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 34.

Estimated Number of Responses per Respondent: 2.5

Estimated Number of Responses: 83.

Estimated Total Annual Burden on Respondents: 1,465 hours.

Abstract: USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service (RBCS), Cooperative Programs administers the Agriculture Innovation Center Demonstration (AIC) Program. The primary objective of this program is to provide funds to Agriculture Innovation Centers (Centers) which provide agricultural producers with technical and business development assistance. RBCS collects information from applicants to confirm eligibility for the program and to evaluate the quality of the applications. Recipients of awards are required to submit reporting and payment request information to facilitate monitoring of the award and disbursement of funds.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-171) authorized the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to award grant funds to Centers.

Comments are invited on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility.

(b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden of the collection of information including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.

(c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology. All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will become a matter of public record.

Copies of this information collection can be obtained from Arlette Mussington, Rural Development Innovation Center – Regulations Management Division, at (202) 720-2825. Email: arlette.mussington@usda.gov.

All responses to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for OMB approval. All comments will also become a matter of public record.

Karama Neal,

Administrator,

Rural Business-Cooperative Service.

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